



# ***Iowa Outdoors***

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
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**Jan. 30, 2007**

- Omission Leads To Confusion With Mississippi River Walleye Fishing
- Boat Registration Fees Increase; Additional Funds To Enhance And Protect Iowa's Aquatic Resources
- Plenty Of Native Trees, Shrubs Available For Spring Delivery
- Upcoming Ice Fishing Clinics
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## **Omission Leads To Confusion With Mississippi River Walleye Fishing**

DES MOINES – Walleye anglers will be required to adhere to a slot limit on a portion of the Mississippi River despite an omission recently discovered in the 2007 Iowa Fishing Regulations brochure.

The brochure stated "... all walleye from 20 to 27 inches caught from Lock and Dam 12 to the Missouri state line, must be immediately released alive, and, no more than one walleye above 27 inches may be taken per day on these pools." However, state officials noted the wording should have read "from Lock and Dam 11 to the Missouri state line," which would include pool 12.

"Basically, the text inadvertently and mistakenly omitted pool 12 from the wording, a 26-mile river pool from Dubuque to Bellevue," said Iowa DNR Fisheries Bureau chief Marion Conover. "However, we still intend to enforce the slot limit on that stretch of the river."

The decision to adhere to the regulation was based partly on a long-standing agreement with Mississippi River border-states Wisconsin and Illinois, who said they would enforce the rule on their sides of the river. To avoid confusion among anglers, Iowa officials agreed to do the same.

DNR officials will be providing fishing license vendors in the affected area with additional educational materials to note the omission and remind anglers of the regulation.

The daily bag and possession limits on the Mississippi River are an aggregate five and 10 walleye, sauger and/or saugeye, respectively.

For more information, contact Alan Foster at 515-281-8874.

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## **Boat Registration Fees Increase; Additional Funds To Enhance And Protect Iowa's Aquatic Resources**

DES MOINES – Iowa's water resources will get a much-needed boost thanks to a new boater registration fee structure signed into law in 2005.

Beginning this year, boat owners will pay higher fees to register their boats. The increase, which varies depending on type and size of vessel, is expected to generate an additional \$1 million annually for aquatic invasive species control, boater safety education and increasing water patrol efforts. Under the new law, boat owners will also only have to register their boats every three years, as opposed to every two under previous requirements. The last time boat registration fees were increased was in 1984.

"Increasing our efforts to provide additional water patrol and controlling invasive species are two consistent concerns we have heard from citizens," said Lowell Joslin, chief of the DNR's law enforcement bureau.

"We now have more than 200,000 registered boats in Iowa and water safety is a top concern for citizens and a top priority for our department," said Joslin, pointing out that citizens of the Iowa Great Lakes region successfully lobbied for night time speed limits in that area last year to address safety concerns.

Joslin said the threat of invasive species is also becoming a more urgent concern in Iowa, particularly now that zebra mussels have been documented in Clear Lake.

"Many invasive species such as zebra mussels can be spread by boating activity. Once some of these species get established in our waters, it can be difficult, expensive and, in some cases, even impossible, to get rid of them," Joslin said.

The law also requires anyone ages 12 through 17 to successfully complete a DNR-approved watercraft safety course before operating any vessel with a motor larger than 10 horsepower if a responsible adult age 18 or over who is an experienced operator is not present in the boat. It also corrects a previous law, stipulating no one under the age of 12 can operate a boat with a motor larger than 10 horsepower unless accompanied by an experience boater operator age 18 or older.

The additional revenue is expected to increase the number of water patrol officers on Iowa's major water areas, acquire water patrol and boater safety equipment and material and enhance Iowa's water trails development programs.

For more information, contact Alan Foster at 515-281-8874.

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## **Plenty Of Native Trees And Shrubs Available For Spring Delivery**

DES MOINES – More than 7 million trees and shrubs were planted last year in Iowa on roughly 12,700 acres for conservation efforts on private and public lands, according to Iowa DNR statistics. And with plenty of tree stock available again this year, state forestry officials are gearing up for another banner planting year.

“This year the State Forest Nursery and several private Iowa nurseries have good supplies of Iowa-grown conservation tree and shrub seedlings,” according to John Walkowiak, DNR Forestry Bureau chief.

“There are good supplies of white, red, bur and swamp white oak, black walnut, silver maple and 37 other species of conifers, hardwood trees and shrubs available from the State Forest Nursery in Ames,” Walkowiak said. These conservation trees and shrubs are bare root seedlings from locally collected seed, and range in size from 8 to 24 inches. State Forest Nursery prices remain unchanged this year, ranging from \$.25 for 8- to 16-inch conifers such as Norway spruce and red cedar, to \$.45 for a 17- to 24-inch hardwood tree or shrub such as oaks. Plants are sold in lots of 100, with a minimum order of 500 plants required.

“For those who cannot plant 500 trees and shrubs but are interested in planting their small acreage for wildlife habitat, the State Nursery offers a special wildlife “create-a-packet” of 200 plants comprised of up to four different species of their choosing for \$90,” Walkowiak added. “Also available is a Turkey Packet designed in cooperation with the Iowa Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, containing 50 gray dogwoods, 50 bur, 50 pin and 50 white oak for mast production. A Pheasant Packet contains 50 red cedar, 50 wild plum, 50 ninebark and 50 gray dogwood. A Quail Packet contains 100 wild plum and 100 gray dogwood. The Songbird Packet, perfect for that odd corner in a larger backyard, contains two bur oak, two white pine, four wild plum, four chokecherry, four gray dogwood and four serviceberry and sells for \$20 which includes shipping.

To order State Forest Nursery conservation seedlings, call 1-800-865-2477 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or go to [www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/](http://www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/) to order online. Credit card orders are accepted.

For more information contact John Walkowiak, IDNR Forestry Bureau, 515-242-5966, or by email at [john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us)

## UPCOMING ICE FISHING CLINICS

DES MOINES – A number of free ice fishing clinics are scheduled around Iowa, depending upon favorable ice conditions. Activities vary at each clinic, but participants can expect to learn basic safety tips, fishing techniques and bait presentations while on the ice. Participants should prepare to be outdoors for an extended amount of time. Hats and mittens are essential along with a good pair of boots.

Contact the clinic for more information.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Clinic Type</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Feb. 3	Youth	Great Western Park, Manning	712-792-4614
Feb. 11	Youth	F.W. Kent Park, Tiffin	319-645-1011
Feb. 11	Youth	Easter Lake Park, Des Moines	515-323-5361

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## Natural Resource Commission To Meet Feb. 8 In Des Moines

DES MOINES - The Natural Resource Commission of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will meet at 8:30 a.m., Feb. 8, in the fourth floor conference room, Wallace State Office Bldg., in Des Moines. The meeting is open to the public.

Members of the NRC are Joan Schneider, Randy Duncan, Carol Kramer, Richard Francisco, Janice Marcantonio, Lennis Moore and Elizabeth Garst. The DNR Director is Richard Leopold.

- The following is the agenda for the February meeting.
- Approve Agenda.
- Approve Minutes of January 17, 2007.
- Director's Remarks.
- Construction Projects.
  1. Ventura Access, Harbor Inn Area, Cerro Gordo County -- Facility Development
  2. Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County - Dredge Spoil Site
  3. Consulting Contract for Big Creek Fish Hatchery
- Land Acquisition. Decision. (Hanson)
  1. Goose Lake Wildlife Management Area, Clinton County
  2. Soap Creek Wildlife Management Area, Davis County
  3. Simmons Wildlife Area, Taylor County
- 28E Agreement with Department of Revenue.
- Management Agreement, Fayette County--Echo Valley State Park.

- Conservation and Recreation Donations.
- Final Rule—Chapter 51, Game Management Areas.
- Final Rule—Chapter 94, Nonresident Deer Hunting.
- Final Rule—Chapter 16, Public, Commercial, Private Docks and Dock Management Areas.
- Wildlife Habitat with Local Entities Program Grant Review.
- Final Rule—Chapter 87, Mussel Regulations.
- Timber Sale--Yellow River State Forest, Paint Rock Unit, Allamakee County.
- General Discussion.
- Items for Next Meeting, March 8 – Lake of Three Fires and Area

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